

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 CU-04 SCCT-02

IO-14 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /164 W

----- 041271

R 252150Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6774

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

COMCARIBSEAFRON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0338

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GJ PINS PINT

SUBJ: LIFTING OF WARNING ON GRENADA

REFS: (A) BTN 0334; (B) BTN 0131

SUMMARY ADDRESSEES WERE INFORMED BY REFTEL (B) PARA 5 OF EMBASSY'S DECLARATION OF E&E WARNING PHASE FOR GRENADA AND ADVISED THAT TOURISTS CONTEMPLATING TRAVEL TO GRENADA SHOULD BE COUNSELED TO POSTPONE VISITS UNTIL SITUATION CLARIFIED. IN VIEW RELATIVE CALM THAT HAS PREVAILED IN GRENADA OVER PAST THREE WEEKS, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT FORMAL WARNING AND PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED ADVICE TO TOURISTS CAN BE LIFTED. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JANUARY 21, RIOTING AND LOOTING BROKE OUT IN GRENADA FOLLOWING VIOLENT CLASH BETWEEN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS AND
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ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATORS. CLASH SIGNALLED SHIFT IN

GOG POLICY AWAY FROM CONCILIATION AND BACK TO INTIMIDATION AND FORCE AND OPENED POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER VIOLENCE. EMBASSY THEREFORE DEEMED IT ADVISEABLE TO DECLARE E&E WARNING PHASE AND TO ADVISE DEPARTMENT AND NEIGHBORING POSTS TO COUNSEL TOURISTS CONTEMPLATING TRAVEL TO GRENADA TO POSTPONE THEIR VISITS.

2. SINCE GRENADA'S INDEPENDENCE ON FEBRUARY 7, GOG HAS DEALT WITH OPPOSITION GROUPS IN RESTRAINED AND EVENHANDED MANNER, DESPITE HINTS FROM SOME CABINET MEMBERS THAT GOG CONTEMPLATING STATE OF EMERGENCY TO BREAK PROTEST STRIKE. THIS APPROACH HAS HAD SOME SUCCESS AS MANY STRIKING WORKERS, INCLUDING STAFFERS OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRICITY SERVICES, HAVE GRADUALLY RETURNED TO WORK. SEAMEN AND WATERFRONT WORKERS' UNION IS ONLY MAJOR GROUP STILL ON STRIKE BUT IS NOT EXPECTED TO HOLD OUT INDEFINITELY. OPPOSITION GROUPS, INCLUDING RADICAL NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT, APPEAR TO BE MOMENTARILY DIVIDED AND DEMORALIZED. EVEN IN FACE OF ARREST OF NINETEEN NJM SUPPORTERS LAST WEEK, OPPOSITION GROUPS FAILED TO MOUNT SIGNIFICANT PROTEST.

3. SOME BUSINESSES ALSO REPORTED TO BE REOPENING FOR FIRST TIME SINCE STRIKE BEGAN. HOLIDAY INN, LARGEST OF SIX MAJOR TOURISTS HOTELS IN GRENADA, HAD CONSIDERED CLOSING AFTER INDEPENDENCE BUT HAS NOW DECIDED TO REMAIN OPEN AND IS ACCEPTING GUESTS. HOLIDAY INN OPERATES OWN GENERATOR AND IS FLYING IN FOOD FROM BARBADOS TO COUNTER SHIPPING BOYCOTT. NOT KNOWN WHETHER OTHER HOTELS ARE OPEN. ISLAND'S ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE SERVICES PARTIALLY RESTORED, PROVIDING CONSUMERS (INCLUDING HOLIDAY INN) WITH SUFFICIENT POWER FOR AIR CONDITIONING, HEATING WATER, ETC. ON HALF DAY SCHEDULE. WITH CURRENT LIMITED OPERATION, DIESEL FOR POWER PLANT ESTIMATED ADEQUATE FOR 20 DAYS, BY WHICH TIME GOG MAY HAVE FOUND SOLUTIONS TO PORT STRIKE AND SHIPPING BOYCOTT. THOUGH STILL POSSIBLE (PARTICULARLY IF GOG ATTEMPTS BREAK PORT STRIKE BY FORCE), PROSPECT FOR VIOLENT OUTBREAKS IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE APPEARS LIMITED AND DANGER TO US RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS SEEMS REMOTE.

4. EMBASSY THEREFORE BELIEVES WARNING PHASE CAN NOW BE LIFTED AND SEES NO REASON TO CONTINUE TO ADVISE TOURISTS NOT TO VISIT

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GRENADA. TOURISTS SHOULD HOWEVER BE COUNSELED TO RECONFIRM AIRLINE AND HOTEL BOOKINGS AND SHOULD EXPECT SOME INCONVENIENCES IN TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RIOT CONTROL, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRIDGE00338
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740212/aaaaalas.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) BTN 0334; (B) BTN 0131
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIFTING OF WARNING ON GRENADA
TAGS: PINS, PINT, GJ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005